

REMARKS

Specification

As suggested by the Examiner, the applicant has amended the specification to claim the benefit of prior-filed applications under 35 U.S.C. 371.

Claims

The Examiner rejected claims 20 and 23. By this amendment, claim 20 has been amended to correctly reference claim 17, and thus provide antecedent basis for the “said midrails” limitation in the claim. Claim 23 has been amended to address the anticipation rejection issued in the Office Action. Claims 24 and 26 have also been amended for the sake of clarity. No claims have been deleted from the application. Therefore, claims 1-27 remain pending in the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC §102

With reference to paragraphs 5 and 6 of the Office Action, claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Smith (US 6,009,932). Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner’s rejection.

As the Examiner will note, the amended claim 23 includes the limitation of a security screen door having a lockable sliding section that provides access to said outer door. Support for this amendment is provided in specification (e.g., at page 21, line 12 to page 22, line 20). The applicant submits that Smith fails to disclose this limitation.

Smith describes a latch assembly for a screen door specifically designed for recreational vehicles. Although Smith discloses a main door (12) and a screen door (13) comprising a sliding section (90), the applicant asserts that Smith makes no disclosure or suggestion that the sliding section of the screen door is lockable. The lockable nature of the sliding section provides superior security over the prior art, whilst maintaining the quick and simple keyless exit feature.

Independent claims 24 and 26 have also been amended to clarify that the sliding section of the present invention is lockable.

The applicant asserts that the amended claim 23 is now allowable.

Conclusion

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that claims 1-27 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the prior art and that the application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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